

NICOLA WERENOWSKA - Writer | Librettist - 2026

Nicola is an award-winning neurodivergent playwright from a working-class background. As a disabled writer, she is committed to exploring underrepresented voices in her writing and has successfully run engagement projects with diverse communities including Polish, neurodivergent, and deprived communities. She writes for theatre, radio and television and was part of the BBC Writers' Access Group of BBC Writers Room for talented disabled writers expanding their writing skills for radio and television. She is a very skilled dramaturg and mentor for new writers.

She has recently been commissioned to write a new BBC Radio 4 play working with Graeae/Naked Productions in a 2 part drama adaptation of **THE SECRET AGENT**, a story about autism. Nicola is known for her work in regional theatre and with Graeae Theatre Company, the world-class company placing deaf and disabled actors centre stage and challenging preconceptions, and often focusing on writing for young people. In 2022 Nicky worked with Graeae as librettist for a new opera about a blind female musician at the time of Mozart called **THE PARADIS FILES** with music by award-winning composer Errollyn Warren and directed by Jenny Sealey, with a national tour including performances at London's South Bank Centre and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Her 5 star sell out show **SILENCE** toured nationally in 2018 and her radio debut co-writing Graeae's Christmas classic adaptation with a radical new imagining of Charles Dickens' *Little Dorrit*, entitled **AMY DORRIT**, was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 2019.

Recent work includes her theatrical adaptation of **THE RAINBOW** by D.H. Lawrence which opened the theatre in Perth in 2025 and her fully accessible adaptation for the deaf community, of **ALICE IN WONDERLAND** at Derby Playhouse in 2024. She also wrote an accessible adaptation of **THE SECRET GARDEN** for Bury St Edmunds as their summer show in 2023.

Nicola was 16 when she was a runner up in the Royal Court Young People's playwriting competition but due to the undiagnosed disability and the debilitating effects, it took her another 15 years before she wrote professionally, once she had the life-changing diagnosis of dyspraxia. Since then, her work has been developed and produced regionally and nationally with theatre partners including Hampstead Theatre, the National Theatre Studio, the Royal Court Theatre, Theatre 503, the Mercury Theatre, Colchester, Salisbury Playhouse and with Graeae Theatre.

In 2023 she received a Peggy Ramsay/Film 4 Award to work with High Tide Theatre and was one of the writers for **GHOST STORIES BY CANDLELIGHT** with her play **THE BEACHHUT** for a touring production in association with Shakespeare's Globe, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds & Harlow Playhouse.

She also has written **MASKED**, a play about undiagnosed female neurodivergence and **BROKEN ENGLISH**, a contemporary piece about the impact of Brexit on Polish migrants and is writing further plays supported by the Arts Council of England including a family play with music **STAR SISTERS**, exploring the lives of Jane and Ann Taylor, two unknown sisters who wrote the lyrics of the world's most famous nursery rhyme 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'

Nicola is an Associate Artist at Mercury Theatre, Colchester and Lakeside Theatre, Essex University and is working locally with Eastern Angles and Colchester Arts Centre on a play called

THE BLACK MADONNA. The play is about memorialisation, race and religion through the history of a Polish icon. Further integrated community productions have included **JAPANESE TALES** (2008) and **AFTERMATH** (2006) for the Mercury Theatre's disabled acting group 'dis:play'.

THEATRE

THE RAINBOW	2025	Perth Theatre, (opening production)
ALICE IN WONDERLAND	2024	Derby Playhouse
GHOST STORIES – THE BEACHHUT	2023	High Tide Theatre, tour
THE SECRET GARDEN	2022	Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds
THE PARADIS FILES	2022	UK Tour & Southbank, London
BEHIND DOORS	2020	Mercury Theatre online festival zoom short
LATE TO THE PARTY	2019	Mercury Theatre community engagement commission
SILENCE	2018	Mercury Theatre, Salisbury Playhouse, Liverpool Unity and on national tour
GUESTHOUSE	2018	Eastern Angles Theatre Company
HIDDEN	2017	Oxford Playhouse, Marlowe Theatre, Mercury Theatre
TATTOOED UNDER YOUR SKIN	2016	Acts of Defiance' festival, Theatre 503
CASH!	2013	Mercury Theatre Ethics festival commission
TU I TERAZ (HERE AND NOW)	2012/13	Hampstead Downstairs, Nuffield, Mercury Theatre
BIRTH DATE	2013	Nabakov commission for <i>The Best Years of Your Life</i> , High Tide Festival and Watford Palace Theatre
STANDPOINT	2011	Jumped Up Theatre. Readings at Pulse Festival & Key Theatre, Peterborough
CAMOLODUNUM	2010	Monologue for Paines Plough's 'Come to Where I'm From' tour
DREAMDANCE	2009	Footprints community theatre
HURT	2008	Footprints community theatre
JAPANESE STORIES	2008	dis:play production, Mercury Theatre
FREEDOMS OF THE FOREST	2008	Menagerie
PEAPICKER	2007	Eastern Angles Touring Production
AFTERMATH	2006	dis:play production, Mercury Theatre
DAVY'S DAY	2004	(Slammers), Mercury Theatre

RADIO/AUDIO

THE SECRET AGENT	2025/6	BBC Radio 4 drama adaptation commission
LOOK ME IN THE EYE	2020	Menagerie Theatre Commission for diversity training
AMY DORRIT	2018/19	BBC Radio 4 Christmas Classic adaptation slot, produced by Graeae and Naked Productions
NOT SO DEAD END	2009	Audiotheque drama produced as part of a Menagerie/BBC collaboration

AWARDS

2023	Peggy Ramsay/Film 4 Award
2016	Longlisted, Papa Tango Award for Hidden
2016	Runner Up, Mercury Theatre Prize for Hidden
2013	Invited member of Royal Court Theatre National Writer Group
2007	East 15 drama school showcase presentation, Actors Centre
2006	Finalist in the Churchill Theatre Playwriting Competition
2005/6	Arts Council Award for East to Lumb Bank, an Arvon Foundation course for new playwrights in the Eastern Regions
2005	Shortlisted for Channel 4 THE PLAY'S THE THING
2005	Shortlisted for London Writers Competition
2005	Highly Commended Award in the Drama Association of Wales Playwriting Competition. (shortlist of five)
1988	Runner-up in Royal Court Young Playwrights' Competition for play Twenty Per Cent.

TEACHING & MENTORING 2013-25 Employed by theatres/arts venues including Graeae, Mainspring Arts, the Mercury Theatre, Eastern Angles, Firstsite to deliver ongoing creative writing/drama workshops and mentoring/dramaturgy for early career and/or ND writers.